



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board • Department of Pesticide Regulation • Department of Toxic Substances Control
Integrated Waste Management Board • Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
State Water Resources Control Board • Regional Water Quality Control Boards



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

DATE: August 13, 2004

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

As you may know, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and its Boards, Departments, and Office (BDOs) are conducting a strategic planning process that includes reviewing programs, policies, and activities to identify and address any gaps that may impede the achievement of environmental justice. Recognizing that it may take some time to complete this process, I have directed Cal/EPA staff to implement an interim EJ action plan to:

- Develop guidance on precautionary approaches;
- Develop guidance on cumulative impacts analysis;
- Improve tools for public participation and community capacity-building; and
- Ensure EJ considerations within the Governor's Environmental Action Plan.

I am pleased to announce that Cal/EPA's draft environmental justice (EJ) action plan is available for public comment. The document is posted on Cal/EPA's EJ Program website at www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice. Written comments may be submitted electronically to EnvJustice@calepa.ca.gov or mailed to: Ms. Malinda Hall, Cal/EPA – Office of the Secretary, Cal/EPA EJ Program, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA, 95812. Please submit your comments by September 13, 2004.

The EJ action plan provides opportunities for Cal/EPA and its BDOs to take the initial steps toward addressing complex EJ issues such as precautionary approaches and cumulative impacts. We will explore options for addressing EJ issues and examine various ideas, concepts, and approaches – in a structured and focused manner. Additionally, we will develop implementation options, including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes, to advance the integration of EJ into our environmental programs.

Thank you for your input on this important component of Cal/EPA's efforts toward ensuring all Californians a clean and healthy environment. Should you have questions regarding the draft EJ action plan, please contact Ms. Tam Doduc, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Quality, at (916) 445-1399.